



America's Voices on Border Security

Former Federal Immigration Officials Label the Reid-Kennedy Bill a "Nightmare"

"(Senators) voted for a bill that utterly ignores the findings and recommendations of the 911 Commission at a time when our nation is threatened by acts of terrorism."

-Michael Cutler, Former Examiner, Inspector,
and Special Agent
Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS)

July 28, 2006

The House Judiciary Subcommittee on Immigration, Border Security, and Claims held a hearing yesterday exploring "Whether Attempted Implementation of the Senate Immigration Bill Will Result in an Administrative and National Security Nightmare".

At the hearing, members heard from two experts: a former official in the United States Citizenship and Immigration Service, and a former special agent with the United States Immigration and Naturalization Service. Both offered a scathing assessment of the potential fallout from the Reid-Kennedy legislation. Excerpts from their testimony are below:

Michael Maxwell, Former Director of the Office of Security and Investigations United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS)

"Implementation of the Senate bill would codify the nightmare and ensure that the criminals, terrorists, and foreign intelligence operatives who have already gamed our immigration system are issued legal immigration documents and allowed to stay permanently."

"Asking USCIS to implement a proposal as sweeping as S. 2611 without first addressing the existing national security vulnerabilities in our immigration

system would be irresponsible, at best, and could actually facilitate ongoing criminal enterprises.”

“The agency has neither the personnel nor the infrastructure to process an additional 10 to 20 million applications. I would go one step further and suggest that USCIS could never implement S. 2611 without fully compromising national security. ”

“Our current immigration system is broken. On this statement there is virtually universal agreement, even among administration officials.”

“The Senate bill acknowledges, at least implicitly, that we do not have control of our borders, that we have no interior enforcement to speak of, that background checks on legal applicants cannot determine who is or is not a terrorist, and that fraud has reached epidemic proportions. Then it proposes that we as much as triple legal immigration levels, institute a brand new temporary worker program that is not actually temporary, and give legal status to 10 to 20 million individuals who have broken our laws.”

“Secretary Chertoff recognized in his testimony before the Senate last fall that ‘parts of the system have nearly collapsed under the weight of numbers.’ I would argue that our whole immigration system has already collapsed under the weight of the current numbers.”

**Michael Cutler, Former Examiner, Inspector, and Special Agent
Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS)**

“(Senators) voted for a bill that utterly ignores the findings and recommendations of the 911 Commission at a time when our nation is threatened by acts of terrorism.”

“Nearly every week we read news accounts of suspected terrorists being arrested in countries around the world as well as within the borders of our own country. We see compelling coverage of bombings of trains in Spain, England and India ... Yet inexplicably, there are senators and others who insist on pushing forward to implement a guest worker amnesty program that would be utterly disastrous for national security.”

“My fear is that because we are dealing with millions of illegal aliens who, in the parlance of the open borders advocates, are undocumented, have no verifiable

means of proving their true identities. This means that if this program were enacted, these millions of illegal aliens would be able to go to an immigration office, assume any identity they found convenient and receive official identity documents from our government. It would be a simple matter for a terrorist or criminal, to walk into such an office, provide a false name to the over-worked bureaucrat at USCIS who will probably be given only a minute or two at most to interview each applicant.”

“The guest worker amnesty program will undoubtedly entice ever increasing numbers of illegal aliens to head for our country because this program will convince people throughout the world that in the United States, not only will you be permitted to break the law and get away with it, we are willing to reward you for breaking the law by even providing you with Social Security benefits ...”

“A guest worker amnesty program that has the potential of dumping millions of more applications into the hopper at USCIS would be absolutely disastrous for any effort at combating immigration benefit fraud and restoring even a modicum of integrity to the immigration system and would fly in the face of recommendations of the 911 Commission.”

“By eliminating the distinction between illegal aliens and immigrants, it becomes a simple matter to keep hammering away at the concept that America is the land of immigrants and that immigrants have made immeasurable contributions to our nation over the years. I am a strong advocate for the recognition of the contributions of immigrants to our nation, indeed, I am the son of an immigrant; however, there is a world of difference between an immigrant and an illegal alien.”

www.gop.gov/bordersecurity

House Republican Conference Press Office
202a Cannon HOB
(202) 226-9000